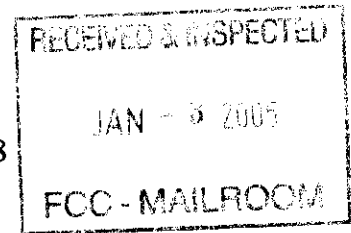


84-1135
Mr E.C. Williamson
1530 Sunrise Circle
Carlsbad, CA 92008-3648

December 28, 2004



Federal Communications Commission,
Office of the Secretary,
445 12th St, SW Room TW-B204,
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr Secretary,

Here is One Strong Vote to Ban Cell Phones on Airliners

In Europe, train travelers, after being subjected to abuse by cell phone users, have demanded "quiet cars". Two of our train trips were peaceful and very enjoyable. Unfortunately, on our last trip, there was not a "quiet car" available.

The continual "jingling", "jangling" and loud unimportant chatter, for over two hours, was just awful.

May I suggest that you travel by train and experience this for yourself?

During an airline journey, we were required to wait three hours for a connection. Passengers sat quietly in the gate area lounge. A business man decided to conduct business on his cell phone. His loud conversation was heard throughout the lounge. After a period, passengers became annoyed. After TWO HOURS of this, I finally asked the business man to "please give us a break". He was completely surprised that the entire lounge of people was not enthralled with his loud conversation and left for another area.

On another train trip in Europe, a young teenage girl pulled out a cell phone. Passengers spent most of the rest of the journey listening to her talk loudly to a friend. We were treated to loud giggling and teenage nonsensical chatter.

These are but a few examples, there are many, many more stories of cell phone mistreatment of passengers. In each case, the common thread is that people have found themselves trapped in an enclosed situation from where they have been unable to escape ill-treatment.

Personal experience and stories told by many, bring me to ask you to disallow cell phone usage on airliners while airborne. No matter what rules are formulated to limit usage, there are those who will not comply.

The majority of the traveling public wish to, read, sleep or work quietly while flying. Please do not allow usage of cell phones on aircraft it would be too disturbing to most people.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Williamson".

Mr Eric C. Williamson Phone 760-729-8485

COPY TO FAA

KEEP CELL PHONES GROUNDED?

Proposed end of in-flight ban brings strong reaction

By Michael Sautz
STAFF WRITER

They've disrupted movies, plays, concerts, dinner parties, graduations, weddings, funerals, baptisms, office meetings, sexual encounters, classrooms, courtrooms, sporting events...

And the red-eye to Boston may be next. Cell phones? On flights? In tiny, cramped, crowded, stuffy, suffocat-

ing cabins?

When the only way out is by parachute? "It's a rotten idea," said Dave McClure, a frequent traveler who was at Lindbergh Field last week. "To think I'd have to sit on a plane full of people chattering away incessantly is incomprehensible."

The Federal Communications Commission announced Wednesday it will seek public comment on lifting the ban on cell phone use during commercial flights.

Judging from the responses gleaned from a few travelers interviewed recently at Lindbergh, it should get substantial — and impassioned — public feedback.

McClure, of Rancho Peñasquitos, trashed the idea even as he pulled out his own cell phone while waiting for his luggage. He didn't mind that he had to wait until the plane landed to make the call, because nobody else was allowed to make a call. And that's fine by him.

But hold the phone.

Dan Frecks, who travels often between San Diego and Oakland on business, has a different take.

"I think it would be great," said Frecks. He'd love to make calls or even just check his

SEE Cell phones, B5

The San Diego Union-Tribune • Sunday, December 19, 2004

B5

► CELL PHONES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Some don't want to hear private conversations

voice messages.

"Now, for me, it's dead-time."

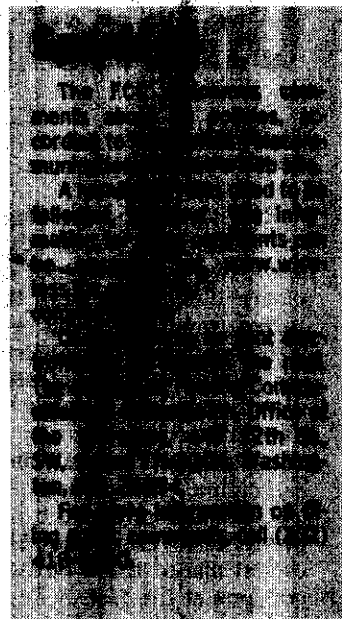
People can't use cell phones on flights currently because of concerns that they could interfere with jetliners' communication systems. But technology is improving and government agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration, are looking into whether passengers can one day flip open the phones. Internet access on flights is also being studied.

It could take two years for cell phone use to be approved. And uncertainties — such as the cost of making a call from air — remain.

Some travelers worry that rude people will use cell phones in planes the way they use cell phones on the ground. They will talk about "Survivor," about their hair, about being like, dude, so wasted the night before.

In short, the conversations will be thinner than the air outside of the jetliner.

Also, people have a tendency to talk louder than normal on cell phones. David Farber, professor of telecommunications at Carnegie Mellon Institute, said this happens because cell phones don't allow people to



hear a little bit of their own voices when they're talking into them. In a recent interview with National Public Radio, he explained that land-based phones provide such feedback, which allows people to better moderate their volume.

If a seat mate starts yelling into a cell phone at wide-open Qualcomm Stadium, that can be irritating. Imagine its happening on a packed 737.

"I'm against it. It would be so annoying," said Nancy Groonis, who's visiting from Seattle.

But Bob Gilbert wonders.

His cell phone would have

come in handy on a recent flight from Boston. After he boarded, it was announced the flight would land an hour earlier than scheduled. So when he got to San Diego no one was there to pick him up.

If he could have phoned his niece, whom he's visiting, she would have been waiting. "I wouldn't use it to just sit up there and bull..."

But Gilbert also wonders if people would reserve cell phones for legitimate calls. Air travel is already a hassle, he and others noted. Flights are jammed. Security has been heightened. And cell phone use could make the experience even more of a pain.

"People don't realize they are having a private conversation in public," said Brandi Zurawski, a Chicago resident who flew into San Diego last week for business.

Only in extreme cases, such as an emergency, should cell phones be used, she said. If people start chatting casually, she thinks planes might have to be divided into cell phone sections and noncell phone sections.

It has reached that point elsewhere.

Amtrak, for instance, has experimented with separating cell phone users from other passengers. On some trains, "quiet cars" are available where cell phone calls and loud computer

games are prohibited.

Some restaurants have installed private booths for customers who need to answer calls they get in the middle of their meals.

More and more places of interest — museums, libraries, theaters — ask that cell phone users turn off the devices. New York City has gone even further. It has banned cell phone use from public performances, such as concerts. And some cities and states have banned the use of hand-held cell phones when driving because of safety issues.

The cell phone industry contends cell-phone etiquette has improved over the years. When cell phones were introduced, people didn't know what was appropriate and what was not. Today, however, more than half the population sports a cell phone, and many cell phone users are more conscious of the people around them.

But on a crowded airplane, can even the most polite cell-phone users avoid bothering their fellow travelers, whose shoulders may actually be touching theirs?

Some have their doubts.

"It will be annoying," predicted a flight attendant at Lindbergh, who declined to give her name.

"It's rude. And passengers already are rude enough to each other."

LETTERS

NORTH COUNTY TIME



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Comment on the article "The
Election of 2000" by Don Russo.
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DON RUSSO
Lahaina